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## INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

7 October 1982

## Implications of C-130 Sale to Algeria

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Algeria is seeking additional C-130 aircraft as part of a program to modernize its military air transport wing. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] an Algerian Air Force official stated in mid-1980 that the government planned during the current Five-Year Plan to replace the service's Soviet-made AN-12 and Dutch-built F-27 transport aircraft. The Algerians have intimated that they are not fully satisfied with the performance and maintenance records of their aging Soviet-made transports; the F-27s have a comparatively small cargo capacity and thus are not a realistic alternative. [REDACTED]

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The Algerians also see the purchase of Western transports, and especially the favored C-130s, as an opportunity to cut their dependence on the USSR for armaments. They hope to expand purchases from France, Italy and other Western suppliers as part of the diversification program. However, an improvement in commercial and political relations with the US is the most important aspect of their move away from the USSR. [REDACTED]

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The Algerians use transport aircraft, including the six C-130s in their inventory, for various military chores. Because of the vast size of the country and a limited road and rail network, the Algerians could use air transport resources to fly troops or urgently needed supplies and equipment to remote outposts. The Army has an airborne brigade that would be moved to trouble spots by military transport aircraft. Algeria could also employ the Air Force's transports to carry relief supplies and rescue workers in the event of major natural disasters, and to support civil action projects. [REDACTED]

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The Algerians have used their transport aircraft primarily for internal operations. They did provide assistance to Arab combatants during the conflict with Israel in 1973 and, more recently, used transport aircraft--including C-130s inventory--to carry troops and supplies to the

This assessment was requested by the Department of State and prepared by CIA under the auspices of the National Intelligence Officer for the Near East and South Asia. It has been coordinated at the working level by DIA, NSA, State/INR, and the intelligence organizations of the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Marine Corps. [REDACTED]

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Goukouni government in Chad.

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Additional C-130s for Algeria are unlikely to change significantly the overall military situation in the region. The Algerians have more than twice the number of fighters and fighter-bombers than are in the Moroccan inventory, but the disparity in inventories of military transports is not as great.

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Additional C-130s would, however, improve the quality of Algeria's transport fleet.\*

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